

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,972,460 to Tachiwana et al (“Tachiwana et al”), U.S. Patent No. 6,303,528 B1 to Speit et al (“Speit et al”), U.S. Patent No. 6,440,531 B1 to Kurachi et al (“Kurachi et al”), U.S. Patent No. 6,387,510 B1 to Nakashima et al (“Nakashima et al ‘510”), and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0010066 to Nakashima et al (“Nakashima et al ‘10066”).

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,818,576 B2 to Ikenishi et al (“Ikenishi et al”).

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

Applicants respectfully request the approval by the Examiner of the drawings filed on August 4, 2003.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) Rejections

The rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tachiwana et al, Speit et al, Kurachi et al, Nakashima et al ‘510, and Nakashima et al ‘10066, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a glass material comprising “62.5 to 75 % by weight of SiO₂” and “0 to 8 % by weight of B₂O₃,” with “SiO₂ + Al₂O₃ + B₂O₃ accounting for 80.4 to 90 % by weight.” Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in the tables showing illustrative embodiments of the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Tachiwana, Kurachi, and Nakashima disclose any example glasses containing B₂O₃; Speit does not disclose any examples the contain 62.5% or more of SiO₂; Nakashima does not disclose any examples having 62.5% or more of SiO₂ in combination with B₂O₃; and none of the examples disclosed by Ikenishi satisfy the conditions of claims 1 or 3. It is noted that the amount of material present in a sample based on weight percent may differ significantly from the amount present based on molar percent.

Claims 2 and 4-31 depend from one of claims 1 and 3, and therefore also distinguish over the references of record in the present case.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tachiwana et al, Speit et al, Kurachi et al, Nakashima et al '510, and Nakashima et al '10066, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e) as being anticipated by Ikenishi et al, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

With respect to claims 1 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that none of the examples disclosed by Ikenishi satisfy the conditions of claims 1 or 3. It is noted that the amount of material present in a sample glass based on weight percent is not the same as

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the amount present based on molar percent. Therefore, claims 1 and 3, as well as claims 2 and 4-31 which depend there from, distinguish over Ikenishi.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e) as being anticipated by Ikenishi et al, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

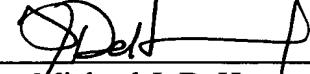
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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